

I oppose media ownership deregulation

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. WHILE THERE MAY INDEED BE MORE SOURCES OF MEDIA THAN EVER BEFORE, THE SPECTRUM OF VIEWS PRESENTED HAVE BECOME MORE LIMITED.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. It is getting harder and harder to find informed debate or discussion about anything that matters on our airwaves due to the control that Big Money media companies already have. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge further, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be severely compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

I urge the FCC to hold hearings around the nation to enable participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. It is extremely important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

Since the consequences of the contemplated rule changes could be quite dramatic, it is important that the Commission take time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to express their opinions and have those opinions be considered.

Thank you,

Zoey Hampton
Brooklyn, New York